

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9179

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IR, CA

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA'S VISIT TO CANADA

1. PRIME MINISTER AMIR ABBAS HOVEYDA WILL MAKE FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO CANADA BEGINNING DECEMBER 9, RETURNING RECENT VISITS TO IRAN BY CANADIAN MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES MACDONALD AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE GILLESPIE. HOVEYDA WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MANOUCHEHR EGHBAL, MANAGING DIRECTOR NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL COMPANY, AND HASSAN ALI MEHRAN, UNDER SECRETARY MINISTRY OF ECON AND FINANCE. HOVEYDA WILL FLY FROM PARIS TO NEW YORK DECEMBER 7 ON TWO-DAY PRIVATE VISIT WITH HIS BORTHER AND ON DECEMBER 9 WILL GO VIA CHARTERED AIRCRAFT TO OTTAWA. HE WILL DEPART FROM MONTREAL DECEMBER 14 FOR PARIS.

2. ACCORDING TO CANADIAN EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY GODREY, EXCHANGE OF VISITS IS IN CONTEXT OF CANADA'S AWAKENING INTEREST IN GULF STATES AND IRAN (HE SAID CANADA PLANS TO OPEN EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD NEXT YEAR). HOVEYDA'S VISIT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TWICE BEFORE BUT
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HAD TO BE POSTPONED. PLANS FOR EARLIER VISITS CONCENTRATED ON

PURCHASE BY IRAN OF NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANTS AND TECHNOLOGY BUT GODFREY CAUTIONED THAT THIS MAY NO LONGER BE PRIMARY FOCUS OF VISIT. CANADIAN PARLIAMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION ARE STILL SMARTING FROM REPERCUSSIONS FROM INDIAN NUCLEAR BLAST AND DEBATE IS UNDERWAY ON DESIRABILITY AND CONDITIONS FOR FURTHER NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE ABROAD. GODFREY THINKS VISIT MAY ATTEMPT LAY GROUNDWORK FOR GREATLY EXPANDED TRADE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ALONG LINES OF WELL-PUBLICIZED AGREEMENTS WITH OECD AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

3. ACCORDING TO GODFREY, GOI HAD COMMISSIONED ALEX VOLKOV, CANADIAN JOURNALIST WITH TEHRAN'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEHRAN JOURNAL, TO ACT AS PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT ON TRIP TO ASSURE THAT SPEECHES, JOINT STATEMENTS AND OTHER PUBLICITY ARE PROPERLY KEYED TO CANADIAN AUDIENCE.
MIKLOS

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